

Remarks

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 63-66 and 68-71 are pending in the present application. Claims 63, 70, and 71 are the independent claims.

Claims 67 and 72-77 have been cancelled. Claims 63, 70, and 71 have been amended to include the feature of Claim 67. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Pending Claims 63-66 and 68-71 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,243,171 (Haneda). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 63 recites, inter alia, an operation section for starting reproduction in accordance with input from a user and for performing the reproduction of one or more images to be reproduced after the user confirms that the one or more images specified by a reproduction instruction file are to be reproduced. Independent Claims 70 and 71 correspond generally to independent Claim 63 and recite similar features in method and computer-readable storage medium forms, respectively.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that Haneda does not teach or suggest at least the aforementioned feature of Claims 63, 70, and 71.

The Office takes the position that Haneda teaches starting reproduction in accordance with input from a user and performing reproduction of images to be reproduced, and column 20, lines 45-67 of that patent are cited in support. (Office Action, page 4). However, Applicant respectfully submits that Haneda does not teach or suggest

an operation section (i) for performing the reproduction of one or more images to be reproduced after the user confirms that the one or more images specified by a reproduction instruction file are to be reproduced and (ii) for starting reproduction in accordance with input from a user.

The cited portion of Haneda teaches an arrangement “in which the laboratory system is made to automatically execute almost all of the operations of reading the bar code on the user's disk, reading the order data from the user's disk, receiving the order data, comparing identification codes and printing photographs in accordance with the order data (with such operations as the loading of the disk being performed by the operator), or in which these operations are performed semiautomatically, with the operator entering commands and data at the time of each operation. In another printing mode, the operator may enter the printing conditions manually.” Thus, Haneda teaches performing reproduction operations (i) automatically or (ii) semiautomatically with a user entering commands and data at the time of each operation. In addition, Haneda teaches manually inputting printing conditions.

Absent from Haneda is a teaching of starting reproduction in accordance with a user input such as, after a user confirms that the one or more images specified by a reproduction instruction file are to be reproduced, as recited by the independent claims. For at least this reason, Haneda does not anticipate independent Claims 63, 70, and 71.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the independent claims patentably define the present application over the citations of record. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as the base claims from

which they depend and further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this Amendment After Final Rejection clearly places the subject application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicant believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of the instant Amendment as an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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